bankers took time as the initial response was not encouraging and the quotation had to be obtained again. The fair exchange ratio of shares between IOC and BRPL along with the Scheme of Amalgamation has been approved by respective Boards of IOC and BRPL on 29.11.2006. The proposal would also require approval of the Council of Ministers and Ministry of Company Affairs before the merger is finally effected. It would not be possible to give any time frame for the same.

(b) Subsequent to take over of BRPL by IOC as a subsidiary company, IOC has been extending extensive support to BRPL for sharing knowledge in the field of refinery operations, pipeline operations, research and development, information systems, human resource areas, etc. thereby resulting in improved overall performance of BRPL.

The coordination between BRPL and IOC in the areas of marketing of refinery products resulted in smooth evacuation of products and achieving full capacity utilization for the first time. Additionally BRPL has benefited from the strength of IOC being the largest oil marketing company in the country.

(c) BRPL became a subsidiary of IOC effective 29.3.2001. The annual turnover of BRPL after becoming subsidiary of IOC is furnished below:

Year	Turnover (Rs. Crore)
2001-02	1332
2002-03	2057
2003-04	3196
2004-05	4990
2005-06	6298

National campaign on ethanol blending

†2228. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that national campaign of mixing ethanol in petrol is proposed to be commenced from 1st November;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons to discontinue the compulsory mixing of 5 per cent ethanol in petrol by Government as declared earlier by the previous NDA Government;

(c) whether due to the earlier decision of present Government many ethanol-making units had to suffer huge loss; and

(d) if so, whether Government have formulated any action plan to compensate this loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, *vide* Gazette Notification No. G.S.R. 580(E) dated 20.09.2006 directed that subject to commercial viability, Oil Marketing companies (OMCs) shall sell 5% Ethanol Blended Petrol, meeting Bureau of Indian Standares Specifications, in the notified 20 States and 4 Union Territories, w.e.f. 1.11.2006.

(b) The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural GAS (MOP&NG) had introduced the scheme of mandatorily supplying 5% ethanol blended petrol in major sugar producing States and contiguous Union Territories w.e.f. 1.1.2003. Subsequently, from June 2004 there was a setback to this programme as supplies of ethanol from the manufacturers were disrupted on account of non-availability of raw material due to bad harvest caused by drought conditions and consequent high rates of ethanol. In the above circumstances, MOP&NG issued an amending Notification dated 27.10.2004 making sale of EBP in 10 States and 3 UTs if the price of sourcing indigenous ethanol for supply of ethanol-blended petrol is comparable to the price of indigenuous ethanol for alternative uses; the delivery price of ethanol at the locations is comparable to the import parity price of petrol at that location; and the indigenuous ethanol industry is able to maintain uninterrupted supply of ethanol for ethanol-blended petrol programme at such prices. Based on the Assurance given by Indian Sugar Mills Association for adequate supply of ethanol, MOP&NG *vide* Gazette notification GSR/580(E) dt. 20.9.2006 notified implementation of 5% ethanol blending in petrol in 20 States and 4 Union Territories w.e.f. 1.11.2006, subject to commercial viability in the procurement of ethanol by Oil Marketing Companies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.